AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Delete Claims 1-31.

32. (New) Method for depositing samples, in which at least one sample is arranged on a substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

- positioning a sample dispenser above the substrate, and
- actuating the sample dispenser so that the sample is moved from the sample dispenser along a trajectory to a predefined deposition position on the substrate, and
- shielding at least part of the trajectory against electrical interference fields.

33. (New) Method according to claim 1, in which the shielding against electrical interference fields is effected by means of a shielding electrode, which is arranged along the trajectory.

34. (New) Method according to claim 2, in which at least one of at least one electrode sleeve, a coating on the substrate and a conductive part of the substrate is used as the shielding electrode.

35. (New) Method according to claim 2, in which the shielding electrode is at a free potential.

36. (New) Method according to claim 2, in which the shielding electrode is connected to a predefined electric reference potential.

37. (New) Method according to claim 5, in which the shielding electrode is connected to ground potential.

38. (New) Method according to claim 2, in which the steps of positioning and actuating the sample dispenser are carried out a number of times in succession, so that a number of samples are arranged at different deposition positions on different trajectories and form at least one sample array on the substrate, wherein the trajectories leading to a respective sample array are jointly shielded against electrical interference fields by the shielding electrode.

39. (New) Method according to claim 1, in which it is used as the substrate a reaction plate comprising compartments, on the bottoms of which the samples or a number of sample arrays are deposited.

40. (New) Method according to claim 8, in which it is used as the reaction plate a microtitre plate or nanotitre plate comprising an arrangement of wells, on the bottoms of which the sample or the at least one sample array is deposited.

41. (New) Method according to claim 8, in which the shielding electrode provides electrical shielding against electrical interference fields emanating from side walls of the compartments or wells.

42. (New) Method according to claim 8, in which a shielding electrode comprising a plurality of electrode sleeves is used for electrical shielding purposes, each of said electrode sleeves being provided for one of the wells or one of the compartments.

43. (New) Substrate for receiving samples, comprising
- a substrate body, on the surface of which at least one deposition position is provided, and
- a shielding electrode, which is designed so as to electrostatically shield the space above the at least one deposition position against electrical interference fields.

44. (New) Substrate according to claim 12, in which the shielding electrode comprises at least one electrode sleeve, which has a peripheral support collar at one end.

45 (New). Substrate according to claim 13, in which the shielding electrode comprises a plurality of electrode sleeves, the support collars of which are joined to form a base plate.

46. (New) Substrate according to claim 14, which is formed by a microtitre plate or nanotitre plate comprising a plurality of wells, wherein the electrode sleeves are positioned on the base plate in the form of a matrix in straight rows and columns in a manner corresponding to the arrangement of the wells of the microtitre plate or nanotitre plate.

47. (New) Substrate according to claim 13, in which an adjustment device is provided, by means of which the position of the at least one electrode sleeve relative to the substrate can be adjusted.

48. (New) Substrate according to claim 16, in which the adjustment device comprises a height adjustment and/or a lateral adjustment.

49. (New) Substrate according to claim 13, in which the support collar or the base plate has an electrode terminal for connection to a reference potential.

50. (New) Substrate according to claim 13, in which the shielding electrode is formed of metal or electrically conductive plastic.

51. (New) Substrate according to claim 11, in which the shielding electrode is formed by a coating on the substrate.

52. (New) Substrate according to claim 20, in which the substrate is formed by a microtitre plate or nanotitre plate comprising a plurality of wells, and the coating is provided on inner walls of the wells and on an upper side of the microtitre plate or nanotitre plate.

53. (New) Substrate according to claim 20, in which the coating comprises a metal coating or a coating of conductive plastic.

54. (New) Substrate according to claim 11, in which the shielding electrode is formed at least partially by the substrate.

55. (New) Substrate according to claim 23, which consists at least partially of conductive plastic.

56. (New) Substrate according to claim 23, which is formed by a microtitre plate or nanotitre plate.

57. (New) Shielding electrode for at least one compartment of a reaction plate, comprising at least one electrode sleeve, which is arranged on a support collar or a base plate, wherein the support collar or the base plate is designed to bear against the upper side of the reaction plate in such a way that the electrode sleeve in each case protrudes into one of the compartments of the reaction plate.

58. (New) Shielding electrode according to claim 26, in which a plurality of electrode sleeves are provided on the base plate in the form of a matrix in straight rows and columns in a manner corresponding to the arrangement of the compartments of the reaction plate.

59. (New) Shielding electrode according to claim 26, which comprises an electrode terminal for connection to a reference potential.

60. (New) Shielding electrode according to at least one of claim 26, which comprises an engagement device for engagement of a tool.

61. (New) Shielding electrode according to claim 26, which is equipped with an adjustment device for height adjustment and/or lateral adjustment relative to the reaction plate.

62. (New) Method of using of a metal sleeve for electrostatic shielding during the deposition of samples or sample arrays onto a reaction plate by means of a contactless dispenser.